

there is no port in the United States where this is done for all without a co-operation of State or charitable institutions.

It is stated by Secretaries of the Treasury that "the hospital fund was never designed as a full relief, but only auxiliary to the aid afforded by municipal and charitable institutions." The Legislatures of North Carolina in 1817, and again in 1835, acknowledge the insufficiency of the relief afforded by the General Government to the sick seamen of Wilmington. An act was passed in 1817 to create a fund to establish a State Marine Hospital in Wilmington, but was in operation only five years, and therefore proved ineffectual. In 1835, this act was revived to secure the necessary aid for the Marine Hospital Association of Wilmington, but was not ratified by Congress, and availed nothing. Of eighty-six sick seamen in the Home of the Seamen's Friend Society of Wilmington for the year ending October 1, 1854, only forty-two or less than one-half were entitled to relief from the hospital fund, and there is no provision by the Government or State for shipwrecked and destitute seamen. The extraordinary sufferings and mortality of seamen for want of suitable accommodations have been the subject of memorials to Congress for upwards of forty years. Even where there is a United States Marine Hospital the provision is wholly inadequate for seamen, generally, and it is more so in Wilmington, owing to the unjust discrimination made where there is no Hospital, and the continued restrictions on disbursements for the relief of the seamen of that port.

5. The nature and objects of the Seamen's Fund Society of Wilmington. It is not denominational. Its object is to "improve the social, moral and religious condition of seamen, and to provide for them as well in sickness as in health. The society is incorporated.

Its home is not only an economical moral boarding